

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF ISSUANCE OF GENERAL PERMIT FOR IRRIGATION SYSTEM AQUATIC WEED CONTROL**

**Introduction:** On April 10, 2002, Ecology issued a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for application of herbicides to irrigation systems in Washington State. This permit will take effect on May 10, 2002. The proposed permit implements the Federal Clean Water Act. The purpose of the permit is to control the discharge of waste herbicides from system maintenance activities in irrigation water into natural waters of the state.

**Summary of Public Involvement Process:** Notice of the proposed permit was published in the state register and posted on the Internet. Notice included an invitation to provide public comment on the proposed permit. Minor revisions were made to the permit as a result of the comments received during the formal public comment period. A summary of Ecology's response to the comments is available on the Internet or upon request at the address below.

**Permit Coverage:** Those irrigation systems that wish to seek coverage under the new general permit should submit an application for coverage. The application for coverage form is available on the Internet or from Ecology's headquarters office at the address below.

Anyone with knowledge as to why a specific facility should or should not receive coverage under this general permit may also contact Ecology's headquarters office at the address below.

**Appeal Procedures:** Pursuant to RCW 43.21.B.310 the terms and conditions of the permit may be appealed on or before May 10, 2002. An appeal must be filed with the Pollution Control Hearings Board, P.O. Box 40903, Olympia, Washington, 98504-0903. In addition, a copy of this appeal must be served on the Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington, 98504-7600. The procedures and requirements for the appeal process are contained in RCW 43.21.B.310.

The terms and conditions of a general permit, as they apply to an individual discharger, are appealable within 30 days of the effective date of coverage of that discharger, in accordance with chapter 43.21B RCW. This appeal is limited to the general permit's applicability or nonapplicability to a specific discharger.

### **Apply for Coverage or Obtain Additional Information:**

Kathleen Emmett	Phone: (360) 407-6478
Water Quality Program	FAX: (360) 407-6426
Washington State Department of Ecology	e-mail: KEMM461@ecy.wa.gov
PO Box 47600	
Olympia, WA 98504-7600	

Ecology is an equal opportunity agency. If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternative format, please contact Donna Lynch at (360) 407-7529 or TDD (only) - (360) 407-6006.